

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 3, 4, 6, 8-10, 12-14, 16-18, 20-22, 24-29, 31, 35, 36, 40 and 41 are pending.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26-29, 31, 35, 36, 40 and 41 are allowed.

Dependent claim 9 (including dependent claims 13, 17, 21 and 25 thereof) are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim, as indicated in the Office Action. According to the Office Action, the branch of dependent claims 9, 13, 17, 21 and 25, would be duplicates of allowed dependent claims 8, 12, 16, 20 and 24.

Dependent claim 9 is amended to overcome the objection over 37 CFR 1.75(c) by reciting patentably distinguishing features from allowed dependent claims 4 and 26-28. Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example, in dependent claims 4 and 26-28.

Accordingly, in view of the claim amendments, the pending claims are in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

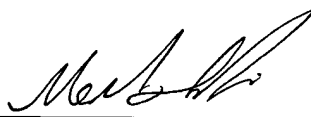
CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
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